

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

within a month, were put under ban, and their goods forfeited to the Commune. The King of Hungary and Charles of Durazzo denied all knowledge of the matter, the latter even declaring that the death of such a traitor had been too merciful. But it was afterwards admitted that the letters were authentic, and that Giannozzo's confession of forgery, if really made, had been extorted from him by torture, in order to avoid political complications.¹ A similar conspiracy came to light in December, Marchionne Stefani being then one of the priors, when, to appease the clamour of the populace led by the demagogues Tommaso Strozzi and Giorgio Scali, several of the noblest Florentine citizens were beheaded. Among them was Donato Barbadori, who had ever served the Republic with such fearless fidelity, and who died calmly and emphatically protesting his innocence.

¹ Cf. Marchionne Stefani, Lib. X. rubr. 821, 827, 905 ; Manni's *Cronichetta e Incerto*, p. 217 ; *Anommo Florentine*, pp. 402-404, and Gherardi's preface, pp. 260-262 ; Palermo, *op. cit.*, pp. ciii.-cxxx. ; Rodolico, *op. cit.*, pp. 331-332".